

RECKLESS RALPH'S

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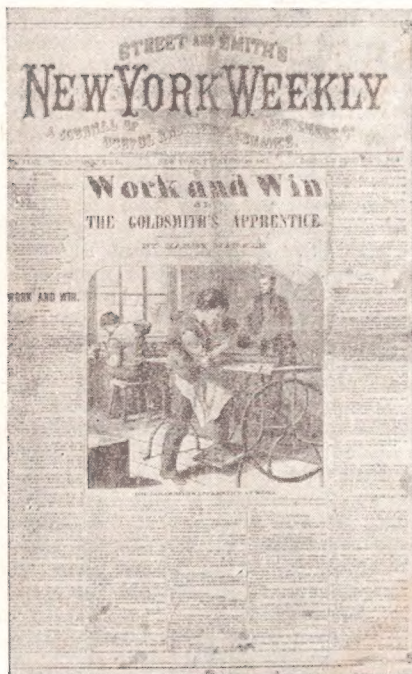
No. 200

OUR OLD STORY PAPERS

No. 3

"NEW YORK WEEKLY"

by Wm. M. Burns



In my personal opinion, New York Weekly was the best all around story paper of all time. It contained stories for all members of the family, both adult and juvenile. For mother and daughter there were the then popular "Love Story," by such authors as Mrs. Georgie Sheldon, May Agnes Fleming,

Lucy Randall Comfort, Bertha M. Clay, Amanda M. Douglass, Mary J. Holmes, etc.

For dad there were the fine tales of Ned Buntline, Francis A. Duriyage, Prof. Wm. Henry Peck, Edward Min-turn, Burke Brentford, Maurice Sil-ingsby, etc. And for junior; tales by such authors as Harry Castlemon, Horatio Alger Jr., Oil Coomes, Arthur L. Meserve, Duke Cuyler, Nathan D. Ur-ner, Roger Starbuck, etc.

New York Weekly, like most of the story papers of that era was the 8 page newspaper size with five col-umns to the page. Contrary to general opinion, (my own included) Street and Smith were not the founders of New York Weekly. That honor be-ongs to A. J. Williamson, 22 Beek-man St., N. Y. Williamson published "The Sunday Dispatch" and "The Weekly Universe," the name of the weekly being later changed to "The New York Weekly Dispatch," then in the beginning of Vol. 13 (1853) the word "Dispatch" was dropped and thereafter it was "The New York Weekly."

Francis S. Smith was employed on "The Sunday Dispatch" and here be-came acquainted with Francis S. Street, also an employee of William-son. In the summer of 1859, during Vol. 14, Street and Smith formed their partnership and bought the "New York Weekly" from Williamson while he kept on publishing "The Sunday Dis-patch." (I might say that the "Dis-patch" continued for many years be-ing published in the late 1880's by A. J. Williamson's Sons).

Street and Smith continued pub-lishing their "Weekly" from 22 Beek-

man St., until May 1861, with No. 23 of Vol. 16 they were issued from 11 Frankfort St., as announced in that issue. There were several different mastheads used in the early volumes. The familiar Rising Sun masthead first appeared on No. 34, Vol. 18 (July 16, 1863) and continued to No. 45, Vol. 65 (Aug. 13, 1910) which was the last large size number. With No. 46 it was changed to about 12x16 pages size, with 16 pages instead of 8 and called "The New York Weekly Welcome."

It continued in this form to Vol. 71, No. 9 (Nov. 27, 1915) where it announced, "To Our Readers—This issue of 'The New York Weekly Welcome' will be the last to appear, for the reason that most of its patrons and admirers have long since transferred their allegiance to 'Smiths Magazine,' the natural successor to 'The New York Weekly' as it is issued in a more attractive and popular form."

As a lad, I ran across several long runs of New York Weekly, but read very few stories in them due to the fact that they ran so many "love stories." It is only in very recent years that I have learned what I missed then.

As about a year ago I got several long runs from a collector friend and became greatly interested in them. While they ran to about fifty percent to "love stories," the remaining fifty percent was fine old time tales for boys and men, by such sterling authors as Ned Buntline, Prof. Wm. Henry Peck, Oll Coomes, Harry Castlemon, Judson R. Taylor, Roger Starbuck, Joseph E. Badger Jr., etc., etc.

After reading these papers, the desire to possess more made me so restless that I was not satisfied until I had obtained six consecutive volumes, a full six year run, with only five issues missing in the entire long run.

So I now have Vol. 25 to 30 inclusive, with the exception of two issues missing from Vol. 26, and three issues from Vol. 30. This run is dated from 1869 to 1875. Think of this fellows! A six year run of story papers well over 70 years old, still "brave and forlorn" and "tattered and torn," but being printed on good tough paper, are still nice and white and still readable and largely still uncut. Not the brown and brittle stuff that later volumes were printed on and today falls all apart when one tries to read them.

And my own paper knife will be the one to cut them open as fast as I read them, over 70 years after they were printed. And it is with reverence that I cut them to read, noting the name in pencil on top margin, showing that sometime, somewhere, over 70 years ago, some newsdealer was marking and putting aside the favorite story paper of some regular customer, to be called for. We all did the same by asking our favorite newsdealer to do the same.

As a lad of 19-20, I was having put aside for me; Happy Days, Pluck & Luck, Secret Service and Buffalo Bill. On Saturday nights, I would go down town and collect them. The same thing is in effect today, in small cities such as this. Our daily papers are marked and put aside for us to call for. So is our favorite magazines, as fast as they come in.

So the names written on the upper margin of these old "New York Weeklies" in pencil, means that the issues were saved for some regular customer to call for. But for some unexplained reason a large part of these papers bearing names on their upper margins were never cut open. Probably stacked away uncut by busy workers, with limited time for reading, who planned to read them at a later date. But over 70 years later, I am cutting them open to read. Newsdealers who wrote the names on the margins, along with the customers, in those far back days are without doubt now dead.

So fellows, you can now see why it is that I so reverently cut open my copies to read. It really is stuff that someone else, many years ago, bought to read. But never got around to doing so. As a matter of fact died before doing so. And where these old papers, were eventually found and their travels since, would doubtless prove an interesting story in itself, if one could ever discover it.

I got them from a very active trader and dealer. He doubtless got them together, from various quarters. But one thing is sure, they will remain with me until I have read all the mens and boys stories in them. And doubtless they will then start their journey again. I also have part of Vol. 34 (1879) and nearly all of Vols. 36-37 (1881-82).

Now it must be kept in mind that Street and Smith kept the paper going throughout the Civil War and the

great depression that followed the war. This in itself must have been a big job, as money in those days was scarce with everyone. And having and keeping enough subscribers and newsstand patrons to keep the paper on a paying basis, must have kept the two young owners pretty busy. The paper really began to improve by leaps and bounds around Vol. 20 and continued so up until about Vol. 40. After Vol. 40 it began to deteriorate slowly in my opinion. By deterioration, I mean that it began to feature more and more "love stories" to the exclusion of mens and boys stories. And I have samples from volumes in Vol. 50-54, where all serials were "love stories," but more about this later.

I don't know just when Ned Buntline (Col. E. Z. C. Judson) started to write for N. Y. Weekly. He might have been writing for Williamson, or he may have been one of the new crop of authors constantly added to the list of writers after Street & Smith took over. In my opinion, Buntline was Street & Smiths "ace" author for many years as regarding N. Y. Weekly.

I think that Street & Smith thought likewise as from Vol. 25 to Vol. 40, Buntline wrote and had published more stories than any other two authors combined. In fact, nearly as much as any three authors combined. He was writing so fast that often two of his serials would be appearing simultaneously in N. Y. Weekly. I will now list such long serial tales that I have completed by him in my less than nine volumes. Please understand that I am not listing the incomplete stories by him in same.

The first on the list appeared in Vol. 25, No. 6, dated Dec. 23, 1869, and titled, "Buffalo Bill, The King of Border Men." This issue has a large half page illustration of Cody in regular frontier dress, buckskin suit, moccasins, long Sharps rifle, a ten inch Bowie knife, revolver, etc. A photo of this particular issue of N. Y. Weekly can be found in Mr. Fred T. Singleton's fine little novel paper "19th Century Peep-Show," No. 18. The following week, Dec. 30, 1869, shows another "smash" half page illustration, depicting "Wild Bill" Hickok, "Wild Bill" with his long frock coat reaching to his knees, could easily be mistaken for a Methodist preacher, except for

the "cocked" revolver in his right hand, which destroys that illusion.

This story was what first brought Cody before the public eye and largely instrumental in starting him on the road to fame.

Three other Tales about "Buffalo Bill" are in these volumes. They are: "Silver Wing, The Angel of the Tribes" "Buffalo Bill's Best Shot, or The Heart of Spotted Tail" and its sequel Buffalo Bill's Last Victory, or Dove Eye, the Lodge Queen." Other stories by Buntline were: "Little Buckshot, the White Whirlwind of the Prairie," "Barnacle Backstay; or, The Gray Eagle of the Atlantic," "Wrestling Joe, The Dandy of the Mines," "Hazel-Eye, the Girl Trapper," "Hark Cringle, the One Armed Buccaneer," "The Terrible Dread; or the Seven Scouts of the Juniata," "The Pearl of Clenalan; or, a Mystery of the Sea," "Merciless Ben, the Hair Lifter," "Carlos the Terrible; or, The Sign of the Triple Cross," "The Scalp Taker," "Dashing Charlie, The Texan Whirlwind," "Red Dick, the Tiger of California," "Mountain Tom," "Texas Jack, the White King of the Pawnees," "Barnacle Bill, or The Hut on Devil's Peak," "Black Alf; or, The Ghost of the Gulch," "Big-Foot Wallace; or, The Giant Hero of the Border."

Perhaps it is not generally known, but Buntline wrote at least one "love story" and several Temperance stories. The one "love story" in my volumes is "The Shadowed Altar; or, Betrothed, Wedded and Divorced" (this one appears in Vol. 25, dated 1870). The two Temperance Tales that I have are, "Out of the Dark, A Temperance Story" and "Life's Peril; or, The Drunkards Wife."

So there's the list to prove my contention that Buntline wrote and had published at that time more stories than any other two authors combined, for New York Weekly. Twenty-four long complete serials in less than 9 volumes (nine years) plus 2-3 incomplete ones that I have not listed. And as many, or more, short stories in that length of time.

And before closing as regards Col. Judson (Buntline) I wish to say that during the time that these stories were being written, he was touring the entire East, winters, lecturing on the West and Temperance. And also found time to get "Buffalo Bill" and

"Texas Jack" in a play that toured the East, titled, "The Scouts of the Prairie." While it is not generally known, Judson himself was one of the actors in this play, enacting "Cale Durg, The Trapper." A Character in "Hazel-Eye, the Girl Trapper."

But we must now turn to other authors. A sterling author of real merit in those days was Prof. Wm. Henry Peck. By him we have "15,000 Pounds Reward! Dead or Alive Marlin Marmaduke; or, Grown Gray in Grief," and last but not least, "Red Panther; or, The Warriors of Lake Champlain." An Indian story of the Revolution about Gen. Burgoyne's invasion from Canada. While I have read many fine tales by Prof. Peck in various other publications, I consider this latter, the best one I ever read by him.

Now Millers "Dime Novel Authors" lists Howard W. Macy, as one of the various pen names used by Prof. Wm. Henry Peck. However, this was not true. Mr. Macy was a real character writing under his true name. A picture and a brief biographical sketch of Mr. Macy appears in Vol. 27, No. 4 of N. Y. Weekly. At that time Mr. Macy (aged 29) had already had published in N. Y. Weekly two stories and the publishers had on hand several other of his stories for publication. Some of these will be included in this list of his tales that I have. First on the list I have: "The Locksmith of Lyons" closely followed by the following ones, "The Golden Wolf of Genoa," "The Dead Duelist; or, The Mystery of Sea-Eagle Tavern," "Marriage on the Scaffold; or, The Swords of Sicardo."

Mr. Macy's stories were all more or less historical like Prof. Peck's, and his style of writing was also similar to Peck's. So I do not wonder that Mr. Miller concluded that Macy was simply one of Peck's pen-names. However, facts prove very different.

Another author that I liked very much is John Fletcher Cowan. By him I have: "O'Commors Child; or, The Harp of Innisfail," "Kansas Kit; or, The Magician of the Plains" "Barback Bill; or, The Freaks and Fortunes of a Tow-Boy," and "Charlie Gale's Pluck; or, a Boys Battles." The last two named are stories for boys.

Now for the stories of Burke Brentford. Not only the Street & Smith readers of dime novels and story pa-

pers will recognize this name, but the readers of the Beadle and Adams publications as well. His name appears more often in Beadle publications than in Street & Smith.

"Dime Novel Authors" lists Brentford as a pen-name of Nathan D. Urner. I never believed this, but have no further comment on the subject. Anyway the "Brentford" tales were all fine and here's the list I have on same, for men and boys. "Gold Dust Darrell; or, The Wizard of the Mines," "Mocasin Mose; or, The Trail of Death," "Rocky Mountain Sam; or, The Wind-Spectre of the Blackfeet," "Tight-Rope Tim; or, The Heir in Spangles" and "Squirrel Cap; or, The Ranger of Raccoon Ridge." Lack of space forbids me to list even half of the really fine tales in full by various authors. So I will pick at random at least one fine tale by various other authors.

"Nick Whiffles, The Trappers Guide" by Dr. J. H. Robinson, certainly was a popular tale, as in Vol. 29 No. 18 it again appeared for the THIRD time. For several weeks previous to its appearance the publishers were explaining to their readers that by popular request the grand old tale was being reprinted again for the second time. Several years ago, I had a very long run of N. Y. Weekly in higher numbered volumes and I seem to recall that "Nick Whiffles" again appeared for the FOURTH time, in N. Y. Weekly. Still I am not certain of this. I may be wrong.

A fine tale of Indian Warfare in very early Rhode Island is titled, "White Lightning; or, The Scouts of Connecticut," by Wm. A. Sinclair.

Captain Mayne Reids, "The Lone Rancher" appeared in Vol. 26, No. 42, dated Aug. 31, 1871. I wonder if this is the initial appearance of this fine tale or was it published elsewhere first? Vol. 36 contained the tale "Jesse, the Outlaw. A narrative of the James Bays" by Capt. Jake Shackelford. Years later it appeared as No. 1 of Street & Smiths "Jesse James Stories."

In Vol. 37 was another real good one titled, "Calamity Jane, The Queen of the Plains," by Reckless Ralph. Another fine one is an Indian tale titled, "The Forest King; or, The Death Shadow of the Miami," by Duke Cuyler. "Wildcat Ned; or, The Mountain Men of Oregon" by James L. Bowen and

"Old Moscow, The King of Trappers" by Judson S. Gardner are both fine old time western stories.

While I have listed far less than half the fine tales for men appearing in my volumes, lack of space forbids my going much farther.

Still I must mention another talented author that wrote tales for women and girls largely, but tales lacking the "mushy love element" so common in those days by most women writers.

While this author wrote tales for women and girl readers as stated above; they could, and doubtless were, read by many men readers and doubtless enjoyed by same. At least I enjoyed them.

The author I refer to is Francis S. Smith, one of the owners of N. Y. Weekly. His tales were largely about poor working girls that worked in the "sweat shop" garment factories of that era. His stories depict the terrible conditions existing in those days in the garment factories. All about the poor underpaid workers both men and women and their terrible struggle for existence under the mere pittance paid them in wages. Some of Mr. Smith's tales were titled as follows: "Eveleen Wilson," "Maggie, The Charity Child," "Alice Blake; or, The Ferry House Meeting," "Bertha, The Sewing Machine Girl," "Cloak of Fire; or, The Poor Girls Triumph," "Little Sunshine; or, The Working Girls Oath," etc. I do not have all the above in my volumes, but do have two or three of them and enjoy reading them all. It is said that Mr. Smith's series of tales about the "sweat shops" had a big influence in bettering conditions in same, by helping to start a public investigation which led to better working conditions and better wages for both men and women workers in the garment factories all over the country.

Mr. Smith was really a very able and versatile man. He proved his success as a publisher and a very able writer of tales in prose. But at heart he was a poet. Over 100 of his poems (most of them real gems) are in my volumes and long runs of N. Y. Weekly. And he had at least two published volumes of poems that sold for \$1.50 each and published by Carleton & Sons. Much as I would like to continue with a further list of fine tales

for men, space forbids, so we will now list some of the fine boys tales that appear in these runs of N. Y. Weekly. We will start off with Horatio Alger, Jr. By him we have as follows "Abner Holdings Bound Boy," "The Bully of the Village, or Tom Temples Career," "Tom Thatchers Quest; or, Following a Clue," "The Cash Boy," "Brave and Bold," "The Western Boy; or, The Road to Success," "Only an Irish Boy," etc.

By Harry Castlemon we have; "Guy, The Runaway; or, A Bold Boys Trials" "White Horse Fred; or, Julian Among the Outlaws." Etc. And by Oll Coomes that sterling author for both men and boys we have as follows "Rambling Dick, the Boy Mountaineer," "Iron-sides the Scout; or, The White Rider of Demons Gorge," "Wild Kathleen; or, Old Bob the Prairie Outlaw," "Trackless Terror, The Unknown Avenger," this latter under the pen-name of Roy St. Ledger.

Fine ones by Dick Cuyler, are "The Wood Giant; or, Spotted Dick the Ranger," "Coonskin the Scout; or, The Prince of Bordermen," etc.

By Roger Starbuck we have "Upward and Onward; or, A Brave Boys Struggles," "The Boy Wrestler," "Red Helm; or The Female Pirate," "The Boy Diver," etc.

Now for a few more single titles by various authors, "The Boy Whaler; or, The Young Rovers" by Leon Lewis, "The Boy Ranger; or, The Wolf in the Fold" by James K. Lemox, "Engineer Phil; or, Life and Death on the Rail," by Capt. J. Pickens Alcott. U. S. A., "Cy the Ranger," by Jos. E. Badger Jr., "The Sky Travler; or, The Magician of the Lakes," by P. Hamilton Myers, "The Boy Miner," by Edward Minturn, "Barefoot Billy's Fortune" by Gaffer Gray and many other fine ones too numerous to mention.

I don't think that I have previously stated that after Street & Smith took over the paper it constantly ran from 4 to 9 instalments of serial stories each week, plus their many short stories, departments, editorials, etc.

Now practically all serial writers, both male and female, write short stories for the weekly, plus many other writers of short stories.

In the latter class are short story writers such as Hero Strong, Jane Grey Seaver, William Comstock, Edward A. Cobleigh, Hannah Hooper,

Lewis W. Hyde, W. H. Randolph, Clio Stanley, plus many others too numerous to mention. While the majority of the short stories were complete, yet many ran in series and here's titles of some of them that did. I will start with the one that I consider the best in the lot. It is titled in general (yet each instalment had a different chapter heading) "Life Sketches of David Cumming, Pioneer, Hunter and Indian Slayer," by Maurice Sillingsby. It is a series of stories depicting the life of a boy to early manhood right here in New England in early days. The scene is laid near the New Hampshire-Vermont present border line. All about trapping, fighting wild beasts and the still fiercer Indians of which there were plenty in New England in those early days. The series started in Vol. 26 and had a run of 25-30 instalments as near as I can recall. Then another good series was one written by Nathan D. Urner, titled "Daring Deeds of Boys," "Metropolitan Pen Pictures," (no author) "American Heroes," (no author) "Remarkable Dreams," (no author) "The Romance of History," by Leslie Lawrence, "Pictures of Paris" by Francis A. Durrivage, "Around the Campfire," by Harry Horr, "Noted Detectives of the United States," (no author) "Strange Cases of Insanity," (no author) "Reminiscences of a Reporter," by Simper Eadem, "Historical Anecdotes" by Rev. John S. C. Abbott, "Historical Bandit Stories," by Edward Minturn. I could go on still further and name other fine series of short stories, but must stop and use other space for other interesting data.

I have a good idea that there are quite a few Alger "fans" in our little Brotherhood. I wonder how many of them are aware of the fact that Alger wrote a series of six Civil War tales. Most Alger collectors will call me a liar, I expect. But here's the true data on the Alger Civil War Tales. All in Vol. 37 New York Weekly for 1832. First one was "The Boy Scout, A Tale of Virginia in 1861" (dated Feb. 6, 1832). Next, "A Brave Irish Boy, A Story of Kentucky" (Feb. 13, 1832) "The Boy Substitute or, The Young Wisconsin Volunteer of 1861" (Feb. 20, 1832) "The Boy Guide of Rich Mountain. A story of West Virginia" (Feb. 27, 1832) "Johnny Wilson; or, The Little Drummer Boy of 1861" (Mar. 6,

1832), "A Street Arab at the Seat of War in 1861." So here you Alger fans are the 6 Civil War tales by Alger, found in N. Y. Weekly. I doubt if you will find them elsewhere.

Now as regular departments. First we have "Our Knowledge Box" Answers to correspondents writing in for information on various subjects. "To Correspondents" was a department very similar aside from the fact that it gave information about previous stories, in what particular issues they could be obtained, prices of same, etc.

"Pleasant Paragraphs" was a column devoted to jokes. Some real good ones and brief funny tales were told here.

"Items of Interest" were largely brief news items gathered from all parts of the world. (Never intended to be up to date).

"The Ladies Work Box," hints, advice, and instructions on sewing, knitting, dressmaking and other information dear to the heart of a woman.

"Parlor Dramas for Little Folks" was just that. Illustrated Dramas and plays for the little folks. And as to comedy; the N. Y. Weekly excelled in this. The best series in this in my opinion was "The Rugg Documents." These appeared only in brief instalments in "Pleasant Paragraphs." Started in Vol. 24 and ran well up into Vol. 29 before ending. Sometimes appearing weekly and then a "skip" of 4-5 weeks before appearing again. I think this is really the most comic series of sketches I have ever read anywhere, anytime. The actors in the sketches are all adults but written in such a comic vein, that it could not help but interest juvenile readers. Later published in book form by Carleton in two volumes.

Every issue of N. Y. Weekly in those days abounded in comedy. Never an issue that did not have at least one instalment of a comic series. Here are a few other series of comic tales in my runs. "A Bad Boys Diary" (no authors name given) started in Vol. 34 No. 42 and had a run of several months. "The Rasher Papers" started in Vol. 36 No. 37 dated July 25, 1831. Had a run of one chapter a week over a 24 week period. Reminds me greatly of the old time book titled "Mrs. Caudles Curtain Lectures." Then we have "Doesticks Letters," nothing regular about these. Comic plenty. In scatter-

ing issues of Vol. 23 I find one now and then. Appearing now and then as high as Vol. 40 I suspect.

Then "The Backsnapper Papers," appearing in Vol. 30. How far they ran I am unable to state. But plenty funny all I have.

Josh Billings has a column in every copy of N. Y. Weekly that I have. He must have written for N. Y. Weekly far beyond 20 years. As I have sample copies of N. Y. Weekly far beyond the 20 year period. Still you can find Josh Billings in nearly every issue. His series title was changed once in a while as following indicates: "The Josh Billings Papers," "Josh Billings Spice Box," "Josh Billings Philosophy" etc. Then there was "Jehial Slabs Remarks" and "Mrs. Partingtons Remarks" every now and then. All highly comic.

Another good one that I must not omit is a series titled "Miss Slimmins Window" started in Vol. 28 ran to 14 episodes, largely illustrated and later followed by a sequel titled "Miss Slimmins Boarding House," also illustrated. These two series written by Mrs. Mark Peabody. Miss Slimmins was an old maid of middle age, or older, always seeking a young husband, or failing a young husband, a husband of any sort. Romance after romance started in the two series, but something always occurred to bust up the romance and to the end the old maid remained as such.

Carleton also published this series in two volumes. Yes, there was always plenty of comedy in N. Y. Weekly for juvenile and adult alike.

But now for the more serious side of N. Y. Weekly. In spite of its "gory, blood and thunder" tales, in spite of its very suggestive tales of that era, of abandoned damsels of the type like "Unhand her villian, she is our Nell," and "Father, I have come home to die" type of literature, it was heartily endorsed by the Clergy. If you don't believe this then get a file or even a few issues of the 1880's and turn to page 4, the editorial page.

You will find there odd little gems written as little essays, or brief sermons by very prominent clergymen of that era, such as Rev. De Witt Talmadge, Rev. Geo. P. Hepsworth, Rev. John C. Abbott, Rev. H. M. Gallagher, Rev. Harley Harker, plus many other preachers of that era. Yes, there

were sure plenty of church members and preachers of that era, who were solidly backing New York Weekly in those days. So the paper must have been good. Very good.

While N. Y. Weekly carried little news as a rule, still on the editorial page, now and then were brief essays on current news. Several on the Assassination of President Garfield were there, plus a lot about his lingering on before death reached him several weeks later, after the shooting. And a comment or two on the second election of Gen. Grant to the Presidency. And the Great Chicago Fire is noted in Vol. 27, No. 1 dated Nov. 16, 1871 by an essay on editorial page. Also in same issue (page 1) is a long poem by Nathan D. Urner, titled "The Great Chicago Fire."

Odd ads appearing in N. Y. Weekly as witness this one:

— Indian Stories Wanted —

"Several Indian stories are wanted immediately. Nick Whiffles and his dog, Calamity, must be the leading characters in all of them; and it is indispensably necessary that the hero and his dog be continually the victims of 'condemned diffikilties.' The model of the stories required will be found in the back numbers of the N. Y. Weekly, in which the genuine work originally appeared. We would publish the original story were we not afraid that Messrs. Street & Smith would have us arrested for theft; but as fear of the law prevents us stealing what does not belong to us, we hope to evade legal responsibility by resorting to a technicality that could only originate in the brains of a parish beadle. We will steal the hero and place him in new 'condemned diffikilties.' Address all manuscripts to

Blackfoot Queen and Co.
New York Weekly Office."

Of course this was simply a clever advertising stunt on the part of Street & Smith asking some author to write more stories around the character "Nick Whiffles." However, to the best of my knowledge, the ad brought no results whatever as I do not recall even one other story ever published by Street & Smith about old "Nick Whiffles."

But there were other stories published about him later by the rival firm of publishers, Beadle and Adams, stories such as "Oregon Sol, or Nick

Whiffles Boy Spy," "Ned Hazel, the Boy Trapper; or, The Phantom Princess," "Nick Whiffles Pet; or, The Gully of Death," "The White Indian; or, The Scout of the Yellowstone" all written by Capt. J. F. C. Adams. I have all of these stories in my small collection of Beadle publications.

So for once at least, Beadle and Adams beat Street & Smith to the punch by getting all other "Nick Whiffles" tales for their own publications. These tales mentioned, possibly appeared first in some of the early Beadle story papers as serials. But I have no knowledge about this. My own copies of these tales are in Beadle Half Dime Library and Beadle and Adams 20c novels. And also due to some publishers arrangement, I suspect, Beadle also published the original "Nick Whiffles" tale in Beades Dime Library #13, under title of "Pathaway; or, 'Nick Whiffles,' the old Trapper of the Northwest" by Dr. J. H. Robinson.

There never seemed to me to be any uniformity about the illustrations in N. Y. Weekly, aside from the fact that I cannot recall ever seeing any illustrations on pages 2-3-6-7.

Often on page 1 there would be a big "smash" illustration filling nearly half of the page, of some special good story, or a story that the publishers considered good. Often there would be from 2 to 4 illustrations interlocked or possibly 4 to 6 small 2x3 inch illustrations scattered over page 1. On page 4 illustrations did not often appear but now and then one did of some prominent man of the day, or some author who was at that time writing for N. Y. Weekly. Among the latter were photos and short biographical sketches of such authors as Horatio Alger Jr., John F. Cowan, Howard W. Macy, Oll Coomes, plus several others. Page 5 sometimes had a 4x5 inch illustration, often a lot of the smaller 2x3 illustrations but months would often go by without an illustration whatsoever on page 5. Exactly can be said regarding page 8.

While I could go on for numberless pages yet telling how much I love this fine old time story paper, space forbids and I must go on and tell something about the higher numbered volumes and why I dislike them.

On the floor, beside my desk as I write, are vol. 50 to 53 of N. Y. Weekly. But so rotten and brittle that they

are hopeless even to read, falling into flakes even if one attempts to pick them up. (Incidentally these are dated 1895-8, as compared to the 1870 editions still fairly strong and readable).

This four year run has not a single serial for boys or men, being devoted exclusively in serials to "love stories" for women and girls. The only redeeming items in this long run is a series of around 100 short complete "Nick Carter" tales and a series of comic sketches titled "Those Terrible Twins" by W. W. Cartner. With sales apparently dropping off starting with #25, vol. 53, the paper doubled up in size, running 16 pages to the issue instead of 8 as it had formerly been doing over a period of 50 years. However this 16 page issue did not pay dividends as with #38 of Vol. 53, they again went back to the 8 page issue.

I have often thought that at this time Street & Smith were neglecting N. Y. Weekly deliberately, hoping that it would die a natural death. Due to the fact that at that time so many of their popular nickel and dime novels were coming out. On reflection, I now know that I am wrong as I can now distinctly recall that some 10-12 years ago, I had some long runs of N. Y. Weekly in which "Little Buckshot," "Texas Jack," "Buffalo Bills Best Shot," "Buffalo Bill's Last Shot" were reprinted, plus several other earlier stories. It was in these later volumes that I also had the pleasure to read "The Old Detectives Pupil," which was as we all know, the first long story about "Nick Carter." So it really seems that after a period of years while N. Y. Weekly was running "love stories" exclusively, their circulation was dropping off, and eventually they began to reprint men and boys stories, which of course held them up for a time.

The smashing success of "The Old Detectives Pupil" created a demand for more long Nick Carter tales. These were forthcoming and without doubt had a lot to do with keeping N. Y. Weekly going. The reader will of course realize that at this time Street & Smith were facing keen competition from other story paper publishers such as Beadle, Bonner, Tousey, the two Munro's, Elverson and one or two other publishers. So once again they made an effort to once more catch the interest of men and boy readers, as

I mentioned above by reprinting a 'ot of earlier tales and adding a lot of original stories also.

Now here's a list of some, not all, the Nick Carter tales that appeared in the higher volumes of N. Y. Weekly. "Tracked across the Atlantic; or, Nick Carter after the Smugglers" (Vol. 47, No. 49), "The Man of Air" (Vol. 59, No. 21), "In the Danger Zone" (Vol. 63, No. 37), "A Fatal Bargain" (Vol. 64, No. 21), "A Fatal Falsehood" (Vol. 64, No. 44), "At Face Value," (Vol. 65, No. 4), "A Vain Sacrifice" (Vol. 65, No. 14), "John Haskins Self Accusation" (Vol. 65, No. 25).

That gives one some idea of how popular the Nick Carter tales were becoming at that time. All of these were later published by Street & Smith in dime novel form, sometimes under changed titles.

As detective stories were sure hitting their stride at times, here's a few others of the same approximate era.

"A Mysterious Case; or, Or Tracing a Crime," by K. F. Hill (Vol. 39, No. 7), "The Maltese Cross; or, The Detectives Quest" by Eugene T. Sawyer (Vol. 38, No. 33), "Nick the Steeple Climber; or, The Detectives Chase" by Ned Buntline. (Vol. 38, No. 38).

Since starting to write this article, several months ago, I have taken in various other long runs of N.Y. Weekly. And in Vol. 38, No. 27, dated May 14, 1883, I was genuinely sorry to see on page 4 of that issue a portrait of Francis S. Street and an obituary notice of his death. Previously, I had thought that Mr. Street and also Mr. Smith had lived far beyond those years. So it seems as if Mr. Smith and the Street heirs carried on for many years afterward in the publication of N. Y. Weekly. And we all know the huge volume of success that has been going to the firm of Street & Smith all the many years since poor old N. Y. Weekly ceased to be. They are still one of the largest, probably the largest, publishing houses in America today, with their huge output of pulp magazines and "comic" publications for youngsters.

After months of writing this article at odd moments, revising, rewriting, page after page, I now think that I am very near to ending it. And I can certainly promise Bro. Cummings that never again will I attempt so long an

article of this sort in length. But summing up, I really enjoyed doing it, as N. Y. Weekly is my favorite all-round old time story paper. And in closing want to give full credit to Bros. Caldwell and Bros. Cummings for the fine help they were to me in helping me write this article. For without data supplied to me by Ray Caldwell, freely, I would have been unable to supply anything about the early history of N. Y. Weekly. Also same applies to titles in higher numbered Volumes of N. Y. Weekly, furnished me by Bro. Cummings. So thanks a million, Ray and Ralph. Without your help this article would be a complete "flop," (probably it will be anyway).

PUBLISHER QUILTS "PULPS" AND COMIC BOOKS FIELD

By Samuel Olnhausen

Our readers who once read "Tip Top Weekly," "Nick Carter Weekly," "Buffalo Bill Weekly," "Brave And Bold," "Rough Rider," "Popular Magazine," "Top Notch," "Medal Library" and many other of their 5c weeklies, libraries and magazines will remember that they were published by Street & Smith. Now after 94 years in the publishing business Street & Smith brings to a close their publishing of "Pulp" fiction and comic book magazines. Pulp fiction magazines are on the way out because of the poor class of stories they contain. There are no authors writing for this type of fiction that can compare with the old ones that wrote for "Argosy," "All-Story" and "Top Notch."

Ending their careers are "Detective Story," "Western Story," "Doc Savage" and "The Shadow," the last of Street & Smiths "pulp" magazines. It is their present intention to continue the publication of their "slick" paper magazines.

NEWSY NEWS

by Ralph F. Cummings

Yep, I visited around as much as I could, and those I missed, I'll visit next time. I did see Bob Smeltzer and sister, Mr. & Mrs. Edward Leithead, John T. McIntyre, both Morris and Herman Branner, Charles Taylor, Myer Furman, Bill Stafford, May Desmond and Frank Feilder, and, oh yes,

Bob's brother Jack Smeltzer, but sorry I missed Ed, also missed Frank Frey, Hal Simonds, and Tom Hart. In New York I met Charles Duprez, Sy Seidman, C. V. Clark and Bill Erbe, Time ran short, or I'd visited more than I did.

Herman Branner, 4318 Pennsgrove St., Phila., Pa., has a little of every thing for sale, such as postcards, boys books, old magazines, novels, stamps, old iron toys, old photos, Civil War items, and practically everything a collector would want.

Ernest Beique, P. O. Box 13, Saundersville, Mass., is thinking seriously of starting a Vol. I, No. 1, Club of Collectors, of old magazines, newspapers, novels, comics and what not. If interested, drop him a line fellows.

Wallace H. Waldrop, R. F. D. #5, Box 289, Greenville, S. C. has for sale an old Bill of Sale for negro slave dated Oct. 13th, 1822. Also a Civil War diary, and a lot of radio and short wave mags before 1930.

Bill Gander's Story Paper Collector for April tells us that the English writer of blood and thunder stories, of long ago, died Nov. 24th, 1948. He is R. A. H. Goodyear.

Harry B. McConnell says: "Thanks for the write-up. Would like a correction. That bank robbery was \$260,000. Also it seems that some lines were omitted. The notice should have read to make a mention of Hollywood voting Cadiz the 'Proudest Town in America' and before 'Lincoln's tomb' it should have read that five men associated in a historical way with Abraham Lincoln lived at one time in Cadiz—Edwin M. Stanton, his great Secretary of War, John A. Bingham who had the most important part in the trial of Lincoln's assassins, (making a three day speech at the close of the trial), General Thomas M. Vincent, who was the head of the recruiting department under Stanton and Assistant Secretary of War, General George A. Custer, youngest Major General in the Union Army, and Bishop Matthew Simpson who made the prayer at the White House and the oration at Lincoln's tomb. It requires a mention of Simpson's service at Lincoln's tomb to make that item read right.

Don't forget the nice big ad that C. C. Clark had in last issue—he still has some stuff left for sale, also Roy Mor-

ris and Bill Burns, too, and oh yes, this is a dandy article Bill wrote on the New York Weekly, one of his best.

Charles Duprez and family visited with Mr. and Mrs. Doc Hunt and family at Patterson, N. J.

Street & Smith has brought out a new comic magazine Vol. 1 No. 1, June-July 1949, of Buffalo Bill Picture Stories. It looks good, for a start—maybe they can make more money selling comics than they can fiction magazines.

I've had some visitors since last Roundup. Ed and Tilman LeBlanc, Fall River, Mass., and Clyde Wakefield of Worcester were here April 10th, Eli A. Messier April 11 and 18th, and Billy Michaels of Mattapan, Mass. was here April 13th.

We are hoping to have "Boys Will Be Boys," by E. S. Turner in soon.

Notice — A note on Old Authors Farm, R. R. 1, via Morrisburg, Ont., Canada, was in February Newsy News as having books for sale. I wouldn't advise any one to have any thing to do with them, as L. D. Webster has had a time getting his money back.

"PULP" MAGAZINES DECLINE

Baltimore Sun

The adventure-filled "pulp" magazines—those printed on cheap paper with flashy and, sometimes, fleshy, illustrations — are gradually vanishing from their traditional place on the American magazine stands. Several of the large "pulp" houses have been cutting down their strings of magazines in recent months, and last week the oldest publishing firm in the field, Street and Smith, announced the demise of its last four "pulp"; Western Story, Detective Story, Doc Savage and The Shadow.

For those who make a living at writing, the passing of the "pulp" mean the passing of a ready meal ticket. Some authors, using half a dozen different names in dealing with competing publishers, made the formalized "pulp" stories their specialty and, at a cent a word or better, made a good living at their trade.

But in addition to them, many a famous author, under an assumed name, has paid the rent and bought his meals between great novels on the money to be had for excursions into the adventures and romances of

western sheriffs, barnstorming flyers, sandhogs, soldiers of fortune and gang busters.

Early Schooling

Just as the legitimate theater today is peopled with actors and actresses who got their start in burlesque, so, too, is the world of books indebted to the early schooling of the "pulp." Street and Smith alone, in 94 years of "pulp" production, helped to start on their way such well-known authors as Booth Tarkington, Fannie Hurst, Theodore Dreiser, A. Conan Doyle, Bret Harte, Clarence Budington Kelland, Frank Norris, Ella Wheeler Wilcox, and many others. And along with writers, the best known cover artists also got their first breaks in the "pulp."

Why the demand for "pulp" magazines has fallen off is not clear. Some blame it on television, and others on the increasing popularity of increasing popularity of inexpensive reprints of western novels, whodunits and love stories. Certainly the so-called "slick" magazines (those with better quality paper) have taken over many of the "pulp" type of stories in their competition for mass circulation, and the radio dramas have also made a strong bid for the tears and fears that kept the "pulp" alive.

Crime Continued

In their heyday, the "pulp" were branded as unfit for juvenile consumption, just as comic books are today. But crime has continued without the "pulp," just as it would continue if there were no comic books or radio dramas. The passing of the "pulp," in fact, probably has no more sociological significance than the passing of a fad. It would be nice to say that it indicates a change for the better in American tastes, but that would be hard to prove. The medium may have changed, but the "pulp" type story goes on forever.

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1109. Small: 1206 1218 1257 1262 1270
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888 902 908 912 914 916 918 920 922
924 925 919 927 928 969 1005 1060 1094
1044 1101 1032 1130 1128 1122 885 801
1103 (All 42 titles \$19.00).

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1104 350 1114 1136 381 1029 1034 782
1113 1122. Small 1596 1563 1574 1192
1196 1561 (All 23 titles \$10.00).

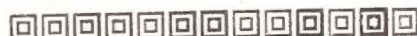
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American Almanac's for 1833 bd, 1835, 1837, 1838, 1839, 1841, 1842 price 25c each. Or all 7 for \$1.00.

The Knickerbocker Mag., Jan. to June 1848. Vol. 31. A fine article on The Oregon Train in all six nos. Price \$2.00 bound.

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Readers Guides for 1920, 1926-7, 1943-4, 1945-6 of Periodical Literature. Author and Subject Indexes. Bound. Price \$1.00 each or all 4 for \$3.00.

A History of the Emblem of the Codfish in the House of Representatives. 1895. Bound \$1.00.

Hawthornes Scarlet Letter, with illustrations by F. O. C. Darley. 1884 Bd. Price \$2.00. Bound in leather, size 18 3/30 x 14 inches. Nice.

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow. Designed and etched by Felix O. C. Darley. 1849. Bd. Size 15 x 12 1/2 inches.

The United States Literary Gazette. Vol. 11. April 1st to Oct. 1st 1825. Bd. \$2.00.

A Practical System of Modern Geography, or a view of the present state of the World. Illustrated. 1838. Price \$1.00.

History of the United States. Pub. at Trenton, N. J. 1833. Illustrated. Price 50c.

The Northwest Illustrated Monthly Mag. Vol. 7 No. 8, Aug. 1889. Fine. \$1.00.

An odd collection of old Almanacs, such as Farmers, Wrights, Hostetters, Barkers, Thomas, Herricks, Fords, Ayers, Jaynes, Horters, Family, Kings, Warners, Methodist, Universal, Radways, Sunday School, Seven Barks, Burdock, Shaker, and many others, a nice lot, 12c each, or a fine assortment for \$9.00.

Another odd collection to have, old medicine pamphlets, etc., such as, 80 and How to Reach It, Dr. Hood's Remedies, Hood Political Points, Seed Catalogues, Piano Fortes, Buffalo International Fair, My Favorite Recipes, Review Annual, Holidays, Book Canvassing, Ladies Note Book and Calendar, Warners Safe Cure, Dr. Kennedys Medicines, Housekeeper's Friend, Baking Soda, Agricultural, Peoples Remedies, Royal Baking Powder, Yeast Foam, Mrs. Winslow's Receipt Books and hundreds of others. Price 12c each or \$9.00 per 100, and well worth it too.

The Poetry of Flowers and Flowers of Poetry. Edited by Francis S. Osgood, 1841, 276 pages, bd in leather. Has 12 colored plates of flowers, good, covers cracked. Price \$5.00 and well worth it too.

Elliot, Thomas & Talbot's Ten Cent Novelettes #43. The Pearl of Panama, 1863. Has piece torn out of right hand side of cover. Price \$2. Good copy otherwise

The World Almanac for 1933. Good, 30c.

Who's Who in America, 1930. Good, \$1.25.

454 copies New York Weekly in good condition, they have all been folded up, and never unfolded, for years of 1880's or thereabouts. Lots of Nick Carter and Ned Buntline stories in them. \$40.00 takes the lot.

Ralph F. Cummings

Fisherville, Mass.